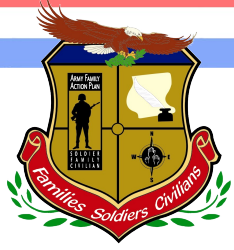


ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN



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Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: CHILD AND YOUTH

Spokesperson: Tierra M^cClendon



Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Employment Opportunities for Military Affiliated Teens

SCOPE: A significant number of military affiliated teens are unable to secure employment within installations and surrounding communities. Employment preference for teens would initiate a work history/experience and allow for exploration of career options and future employment; making teens competitive with their civilian counterparts.

RECOMMENDATION: Establish a military Teen Employment Preference Program.



Army Family Action Plan

**Work Group:
EMPLOYMENT/VOLUNTEER**

**Spokesperson: Dorothy Slaughter
Russell**

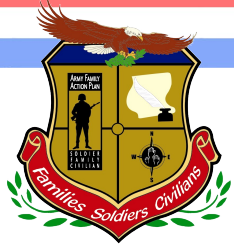


Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Military Spouse Preference Across All Federal Agencies

SCOPE: The Department of Defense is the only Federal agency required to utilize Military Spouse Preference (MSP) in their hiring practices. Title 5, USC does not restrict Federal agencies from using MSP in their hiring practices. Expanding the use of MSP to other Federal agencies increases employment opportunities for military spouses. Employment throughout the Federal agencies would enable military spouses to maintain a career and promote family and financial stability.

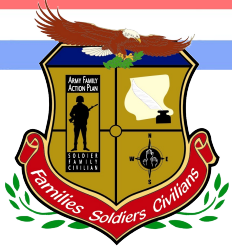
RECOMMENDATION: Require all Federal agencies to utilize Military Spouse Preference in their hiring practices.



Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: ENTITLEMENTS

Spokesperson: Julie Minder



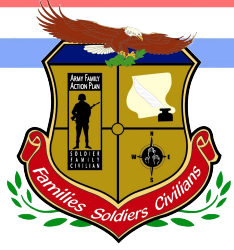
Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Family Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (FSGLI) Premiums

SCOPE: Soldiers not enrolled as a spouse in DEERS are not automatically charged premiums for FSGLI coverage. When this error is detected, servicemembers (SM) are retroactively charged from the eligibility date. Families incur a large debt.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

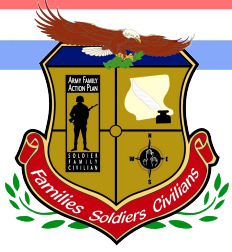
- 1. Identify SMs affected by FSGLI automatic enrollment and initiate automatic deduction of premiums.**
- 2. Approve blanket reimbursement of back paid premiums or waiver of retroactive FSGLI premiums for SMs affected.**



Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: FAMILY SUPPORT

Spokesperson: Sebra Warren



Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Wounded Soldier Updates

SCOPE: Army families experience difficulty obtaining timely and accurate updates on their wounded Soldier. Communication breakdowns and information delays occur between the time of injury and arrival in CONUS. Rear Detachments (RD) have limited involvement in the current system. The lack of timely and accurate information causes undue stress on families.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Appoint a trained RD point of contact for families of wounded Soldiers.**
- 2. Create a staffed toll-free number for information on the Soldiers' status from war zone to CONUS.**

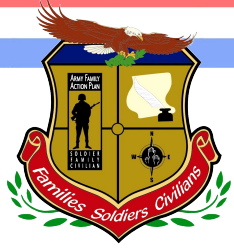


Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Casualty Assistance for Families of National Guard and Army Reserve (ARNG/USAR) Soldiers in an Inactive Status

SCOPE: Families of ARNG/USAR Soldiers are not eligible for casualty assistance unless in an Active Duty/USC Title 10 status at the time of death. Army Regulation 600-8-1 only assigns a Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) when the Soldier dies on Active Duty/USC Title 10 status. Without the assignment of a CAO, families may be unaware of their rightful entitlements and benefits.

RECOMMENDATION: Activate ARNG/USAR Soldiers to serve as CAOs for families of ARNG/USAR Soldiers who die in an inactive status.



Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: FORCE SUPPORT I

Spokesperson: Bill Ridgely

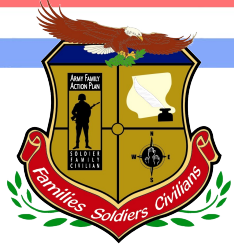


Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Advanced Life Support Services on CONUS Army Installations

SCOPE: Department of the Army does not require Advance Life Support (ALS) services on CONUS Installations. Timely ALS services are not provided on all CONUS installations. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guideline states an 8-minute response time to 90% of the incidents is the accepted standard. Lack of ALS services increases response time which jeopardizes health and safety.

RECOMMENDATION: Mandate that all CONUS installations, to include Alaska and Hawaii, provide ALS services on or near the installation in accordance with the NFPA standard.

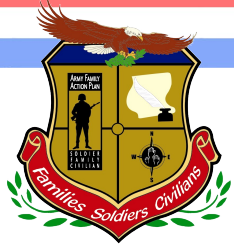


Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Health Processing of Demobilizing Army Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers

SCOPE: RC Soldiers demobilizing through a Power Projection Platform (PPP) are not required to have a comprehensive physical or psychological examination. Military resources available after release from active duty are often inaccessible, limited, and may not address symptoms missed at the PPP.

RECOMMENDATION: Mandate comprehensive physical and psychological examination of demobilizing RC Soldiers at the PPP accompanied by appropriate follow-up care.



Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: FORCE SUPPORT II

Spokesperson: Leroy Lee



Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Funding for Barracks Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM)

SCOPE: There is no committed funding in SRM for barracks. Garrison Commanders prioritize facility maintenance based on current condition of the entire garrison. This prioritization leads to a percentage of barracks receiving a lower allocation of SRM funds. Soldiers are forced to live in barracks not meeting basic living conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: Fence the appropriated SRM funding for barracks.

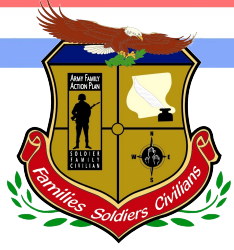


Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Alternate Local Caregiver for the Family Care Plan (FCP)

SCOPE: No policy exists to address who should care for children if the designated caregiver is unavailable. Since no FCP temporary alternate local caregiver is required by the current policy, dependents could be subject to legal action. Results of such action could evolve into a long-term crisis for the Soldier and family, interfering with the Soldier's ability to fulfill the mission.

RECOMMENDATION: Require Soldiers to provide a primary and an alternate interim temporary local caregiver in their FCP.



Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: MEDICAL/DENTAL

Spokesperson: Michelle Lantz



Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) Enrollment Requirements for the Reserve Component

SCOPE: Reserve Component Soldiers called to active duty (AD) who enroll their family in the TDP after thirty days of the AD start date cannot terminate coverage until they meet the 12-month enrollment period. Upon the servicemember's (SM) release from AD, DoD stops their 60% contribution, which obligates the SM to pay the full premium. The change in status results in an unplanned financial burden to the SM and the family.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Eliminate the 30-day window for enrollment.**
- 2. Allow the option to disenroll or pay the Reserve rate upon release from AD**

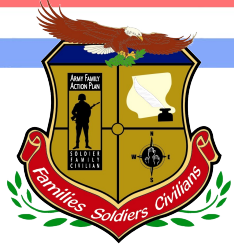


Army Family Action Plan

TITLE: Chiropractic Services for All TRICARE Beneficiaries

SCOPE: Chiropractic services are not available to all TRICARE beneficiaries. The National Defense Authorization Act of FY01 directed the Secretary of Defense to provide permanent chiropractic services at designated Military Treatment Facilities only for active duty members. Chiropractic services provide non-pharmaceutical and non-surgical treatment options to decrease pain and increase function. This benefit ensures equitable access to chiropractic treatment options for all beneficiaries.

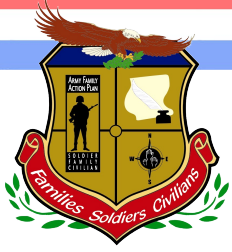
RECOMMENDATION: Authorize chiropractic services for all TRICARE beneficiaries.



Army Family Action Plan

Work Group: OCONUS

Spokesperson: Annie Valencia



Army Family Action Plan

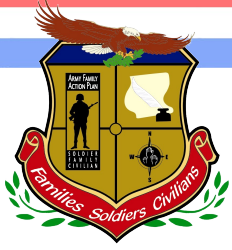
TITLE: Post Secondary Visitation for OCONUS Students

SCOPE: OCONUS high school students incur greater travel expenses to visit post secondary schools than CONUS based students. Upon arrival at the CONUS point of entry, OCONUS families will assume comparable travel expenses to those of CONUS families. Minimizing the disparity in travel expenses will decrease the financial burden to OCONUS families.

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize a one-time round trip airfare to a CONUS point of entry for OCONUS students who have been accepted to a post secondary school and their guardian.



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Army Family Action Plan Top Five Mobilization/Deployment & Family Support Strengths

1. Army Community Service Programs/Family Services
2. Military OneSource (counseling, information and referrals)
3. Improved Soldier communications with families during Deployments
4. Soldier/Family pre-deployment training
5. Family Readiness Groups



Army Family Action Top Five Mobilization/Deployment & Family Support Challenges

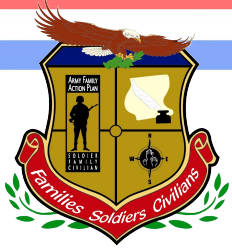
1. Stress from lengthy and frequent mobilizations and Deployments
2. Training/equipment/personnel shortfalls
3. Loss of jobs and property when mobilized (RC)
4. Lack of training, timely, intervention and follow-up for Soldiers returning from deployment (e.g., PTSD, safety and Medical)
5. Marketing of available support programs not reaching everyone



Army Family Action Plan

Top Four Most Valuable Services

1. Army Community Service
2. Medical and Dental
3. Morale, Welfare and Recreation Services
4. Commissary



Army Family Action Top Six Critical Active Issues

1. **#497 – Distribution of Montgomery GI Bill Benefits to Dependent (s):** Allow all Soldiers with at least ten years of service to distribute their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents.
2. **#521 - In-State Tuition:** Allow in-state tuition rates for Military Family members who reside in a state on military orders and allow family members to retain “in-state” status once established.



Army Family Action

Top Significant Active Issues (cont)

1. **#457 - Modification of Weight Allowance Table:** Amend enlisted portion of the PCS weight allowance table to more closely match the officer weight allowances.

2. **#465 - Reserve Component (RC) Post Mobilization Counseling:**

Allow RC Soldiers and family members up to one year post mobilization

to identify the need for counseling related to service-connected problems.



Army Family Action Top Five AFAP 2005 Conference Issues Plan

1. Wounded Soldier Updates
2. Casualty Assistance for Families ARNG/USAR Soldiers
In an Inactive Status
3. Advanced Life Support Services on CONUS Army
Installations
4. Military Spouse Preference Across All Federal Agencies
5. Health Processing of Demobilizing Army Reserve
Component Soldiers